

# FOCUS

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## 2007 Vital Statistics

The life expectancy of Missourians reached a record 77.4 years according to provisional 2007 vital statistics. This represents an increase of about five months over the 2006 state life expectancy of 77.0 years and 1.8 years over the 1997 life expectancy of 75.6 years, but it was still less than the 78.1 years for the United States in 2006. Missouri females reached record life expectancies in 2007 of 80.0 years, 0.4

year more than the previous high in 2006. Males also reached a record life expectancy in 2007, 74.6 years, compared to 74.3 in 2006.

The ten leading causes of death remained in the same order as in 2006 as Table 1 shows. Heart disease was the state's number one killer, followed by cancer, stroke, chronic lung disease, unintentional

**Table 1**  
**Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1997, 2006 and Provisional 2007**

	Numbers			Rates per 100,000 Population		
	1997	2006	2007(prov)	1997	2006	2007(prov)
<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>						
Heart	18,228	14,647	14,237	332.6	250.7	242.2
Cancer	12,120	12,484	12,354	221.1	213.7	210.2
Lung cancer	3,877	3,921	3,857	70.7	67.1	65.6
Stroke	3,836	3,243	3,226	70.0	55.5	54.9
Chronic lung disease	2,632	3,008	3,070	48.0	51.5	52.2
Unintentional injury	2,275	2,975	2,930	41.5	50.9	49.8
Motor vehicle	1,197	1,104	1,015	21.8	18.9	17.3
Falls	379	674	700	6.9	11.5	11.9
Poisonings	178	681	651	3.2	11.7	11.1
Other	521	516	564	9.5	8.8	9.6
Alzheimer's disease	494	1,632	1,682	9.0	27.9	28.6
Diabetes	1,387	1,491	1,435	25.3	25.5	24.4
Pneumonia & influenza	2,172	1,321	1,312	39.6	22.6	22.3
Nephritis & nephrosis	707	1,106	1,192	12.9	18.9	20.3
Suicide	710	798	810	13.0	13.7	13.8
<u>Other Selected Causes</u>						
Septicemia	489	751	718	8.9	12.9	12.2
Homicide	444	412	394	8.1	7.1	6.7
AIDS	163	120	129	3.0	2.1	2.2
Maternal Deaths	7	13	14	9.5**	16.0**	17.1**

\*\*Per 100,000 live births

(continued on next page)

**Table 2****Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1997, 2006 and Provisional 2007**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
	<i>1997</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007(prov)</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007(prov)</i>
Births	73,940	81,353	81,883	13.5	13.9	13.9
Deaths	54,203	54,475	53,937	9.9	9.3	9.2
Natural increase	19,737	26,878	27,946	3.6	4.6	4.7
Marriages	43,812	40,399	40,405	8.0	6.9	6.9
Divorces	25,632	22,358	22,223	4.7	3.8	3.8
Infant deaths	562	599	613	7.6*	7.4*	7.5*
Abortions	13,321	11,833	11,470	180.2*	147.9*	140.1*
Population (1000s)	5,481	5,843	5,878			

\*Per 1,000 live births

injuries, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, kidney disease (nephritis), and suicide. Mortality for the three leading causes: heart disease, cancer and stroke, all decreased in 2007, as did deaths due to unintentional injury, diabetes and influenza and pneumonia. Heart disease deaths decreased by 22 percent from 1997 to 2007, while stroke decreased by 16 percent in the same time frame. Causes of death that increased in 2007 included chronic lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, kidney disease and suicide.

In 2007 there were 81,883 babies born to Missouri residents--the highest count since the end of the baby boom period in 1964. This was an increase of a little more than 500 births over the 2006 figure (n=81,353). (See Table 2.) The highest gain in recent years, however, occurred from 2005 to 2006 when the number of resident live births increased by nearly 3,000 in a one-year period.

The infant death rate increased slightly from 7.4 in 2006 to 7.5 per 1,000 live births in 2007 (see Table 2).

Missouri infant mortality has stagnated for more than 10 years as the 1997 rate was 7.6 per 1,000 live births. The rate of 7.5 in 2007 was about 12 percent higher than the national rate of 6.7 per 1,000 live births in 2006. The Missouri infant death rate for African-Americans of 16.3 per 1,000 live births was more than 2.7 times the white rate (5.9). (See Table 3.) The infant mortality gap between the races has been widening in recent years.

As Table 3 shows, the low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate decreased slightly from 8.1 percent in 2006 to 7.9 percent in 2007, but was still 2.6 percent higher than the 1997 rate of 7.7 percent.

The rate of inadequate prenatal care jumped from 10.6 percent in 2006 to 11.9 percent in 2007, as shown in Table 3. A large part of this increase can be explained by some irregular reporting at a few selected hospitals. However, it appears that the true rate is probably on the increase as the low point was reached in 2003 and 2004 when the rate was 10.1 percent.

Other maternal and child health indicators presented in Table 3 show the following in 2007:

- The rate of out-of wedlock births reached over 40 percent of all births as the number of out-of wedlock births increased from 31,987 in 2006 to 33,173 in 2007.
- Multiple births decreased slightly from 3.4 percent to 3.3 percent of births, but were 14 percent above the 1997 rate.
- Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births increased among 2007 births from 12.1 percent in 2006 to 12.8 percent. Ten years earlier the rate was just 10.8 percent.
- The number of Medicaid and WIC births as well as the number of mothers on Food Stamps all increased slightly in 2007, but the rates show sharper increases since 1997.

- Abortions (see Table 2) decreased by 3.1 percent, from 11,833 in 2006 to 11,470--the lowest number of abortions in more than 30 years.
- Teen births increased slightly by 0.6 percent, but early teen (less than age 18) births decreased by 4.9 percent. The count of 9,339 teen births in 2007 was about 7 percent higher than the low point in 2005 of 8,707. Early teen births (2,792) were 5 percent higher than the 2005 low point of 2,660.
- C-Sections increased by 1.6 percent in the last year and 68 percent since 1997, reaching a record high of 30.9 percent of all births.

Marriage and divorce rates remained the same in 2006 and 2007, 6.9 per 1,000 population for marriages and 3.8 for divorces. In 2007, there were 40,405 Missouri marriages and 22,223 dissolutions of marriage.

**Table 3**  
**Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri Residents 1997, 2006 and Provisional 2007**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	1997	2006	2007(prov)	1997	2006	2007(prov)
Infant Deaths	562	599	613	7.6*	7.4*	7.5*
White	373	398	389	6.1*	6.0*	5.9*
Black	179	184	207	16.3*	14.9*	16.3*
Low Birth Weight	5,721	6,579	6,456	7.7	8.1	7.9
White	4,090	4,676	4,539	6.7	7.1	6.9
Black	1,493	1,682	1,705	13.6	13.6	13.5
Inadequate Prenatal Care	8,094	8,201	9,242	11.3	10.6	11.9
White	5,370	5,519	6,129	9.0	8.7	9.6
Black	2,455	2,272	2,635	24.2	20.4	23.0
Preterm (<37 weeks)	8,734	10,701	10,612	11.8	13.2	13.0
Multiple Births	2,124	2,776	2,679	2.9	3.4	3.3
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	4,510	5,498	5,837	10.8	12.1	12.8
Out-of Wedlock Births	24,491	31,987	33,173	33.2	39.3	40.5
Teen(10-19) Births	10,260	9,286	9,339	13.9	11.4	11.4
Early Teen (10-17) Births	3,724	2,935	2,792	5.0	3.6	3.4
Smoking During Pregnancy	14,409	14,946	14,534	19.5	18.4	17.7
Medicaid Births	28,837	37,965	38,344	40.4	47.5	47.5
WIC Births	29,709	34,256	34,636	41.6	42.8	43.0
Food Stamps Births	13,625	19,333	19,966	19.1	24.9	25.4
C-Sections	15,070	24,906	25,313	20.4	30.6	30.9
Live Births	73,940	81,353	81,883			

\*Infant Death rates are per 1,000 live births.